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BRIEF

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# 144

**Secret**

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1. LEBANON: PRIME MINISTER RASHID KARAMI HAS WON THE SUPPORT OF ALL MAJOR LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN LEADERS FOR HIS DECISION TO USE THE LEBANESE ARMY TO CONTAIN VIOLENCE OF LEBANESE AND FEDAYEEN RADICALS.4

SPORADIC AND SOMETIMES INTENSE FIGHTING HAS OCCURRED DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS IN BEIRUT, TRIPOLI, AND THE NORTHERN TOWN OF BAYT MILLAT, BUT HAS NOT SPARKED A RESUMPTION OF WIDESPREAD OR PROLONGED CLASHES BETWEEN THE CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS. THE MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT OCCURRED EARLY MONDAY MORNING, WHEN 12 MEMBERS OF THE RADICAL "OCTOBER 24 MOVEMENT" WERE KILLED BY ARMY TROOPS AT A ROADBLOCK SOUTH OF TRIPOLI.4

THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THE ARMY HAD BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING, ALTHOUGH AT LEAST ONE SOLDIER WAS KILLED LATE LAST WEEK AFTER THE ARMY CREATED A BUFFER ZONE BETWEEN TRIPOLI AND ZAGHARTA.4

THE OCTOBER 24 MOVEMENT IS A FAR-LEFT GROUP BASED IN TRIPOLI AND LED BY FARUQ MUQADDAM, A LONG-TIME RIVAL OF KARAMI. THE GROUP

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WAS BELIEVED RESPONSIBLE FO ATTACKS ON SEVERAL POLICE POSTS IN  
NORTHERN LEBANON MONDAY. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, SOME 20  
POLICEMEN WERE KIDNAPED TO PROTEST THE KILLING OF 12 LEFTISTS EARLIER  
IN THE DAY.Y

RADICAL GROUPS LIKE THE OCTOBER 24 MOVEMENT HAVE LITTLE BACKING  
FROM LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN LEADERS.Y

LEADERS OF LEBANON'S DISADVANTAGED SHIA MUSLIM COMMUNITY, WHO  
SOMETIMES COOPERATE WITH THE LEBANESE LEFTISTS, HAVE THIS TIME  
SPOKEN OUT ON KARAMI'S BEHALF. THEY HAVE BEEN JOINED BY MUSLIM AND  
CHRISTIAN POLITICAL LEADERS, BY LEADERS OF THE LARGE SUNNI MUSLIM  
SECT, AND BY THE MARONITE CHRISTIAN PATRIARCH, WHO TOOK THE USUAL STEP  
OF APPEALING TO OTHER ARAB STATES TO "HELP LEBANON IN ITS TIME OF  
TROUBLES."Y

THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT IF IT CAN RETAIN THE SUPPORT OR  
NEUTRALITY OF THE MAJOR POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS, IT WILL BE  
ABLE TO CONTAIN THE LEBANESE LEFTISTS AND THE FEDAYEEN REJECTIONISTS.

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4. TURKEY-LIBYA: ANKARA HAS RECEIVED THE SEVEN US-BUILT  
F-5 FIGHTERS [REDACTED] LIBYA HAD OFFERED AS  
A GIFT. LIBYA HAS PREVIOUSLY VIOLATED CONTRACTS COVERING US SALES  
OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT, WHICH CALL FOR US APPROVAL OF ANY TRANSFER  
OF EQUIPMENT TO ANOTHER COUNTRY. [REDACTED]

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IRAN: THE DEATH OF AIR FORCE CHIEF GENERAL MOHAMMED KHATAMI IN A SPORTING ACCIDENT LATE LAST WEEK DEPRIVES THE SHAH OF AN UNUSUALLY COMPETENT MILITARY LEADER AND A TRUSTED SUBORDINATE. KHATAMI PRESIDED OVER THE MODERNIZATION OF THE AIR FORCES--IRAN'S ELITE MILITARY ARM--AND THE SHAH HAD COUNTED ON HIM TO HELP GUARANTEE STABILITY AND CONTINUITY AT THE TIME OF THE SHAH'S DEATH. GENERAL KHATAMI ALMOST CERTAINLY WAS INTENDED TO PLAY A KEY ROLE IN ANY SUCCESSION SCENARIO BY HELPING TO CARRY OUT THE SHAH'S PLANS, KEEPING THE MILITARY IN LINE, AND SUPPORTING THE SHAH'S HEIR AGAINST CHALLENGERS.4

KHATAMI'S SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SHAH DERIVED FROM LONG ASSOCIATION AND FAMILY TIES. KHATAMI WAS ONCE THE SHAH'S PERSONEL PILOT AND WAS MARRIED TO THE SHAH'S HALF-SISTER. HE SERVED AS CHIEF OF THE AIR FORCE SINCE 1958. THERE WERE RUMORS THAT HE WAS SLATED TO BE APPOINTED MINISTER OF WAR.4

KHATAMI'S DEPUTY, LIEUTENANT GENERAL TADAYON, HAS BEEN NAMED THE NEW CHIEF OF THE AIR FORCE. TADAYON IS AN ELDERLY STAFF

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OFFICER WHO LACKS THE VIGOR TO HANDLE THE JOB. HE IS PROBABLY AN INTERM APPOINTEE. THE SHAH'S PROBLEM WILL BE TO FIND A REPLACEMENT COMBINING KHATAMI'S UNQUESTIONED PERSONAL LOYALTY AND HIS COMMAND ■■■ ABILITY.4

THE LOSS OF KHATAMI MAY STIMULATE THE SHAH TO TAKE A PARTICULARLY CLOSE LOOK AT THE RELIABILITY OF ALL HIS MAJOR COMMANDERS. THE RULER'S CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF HIS SENIOR OFFICERS TO CARRY OUT HIS POLITICAL PLANS AFTER HE DEPARTS THE SCENE MAY HAVE WEAKENED NOW THAT KHATAMI IS OUT OF THE PICTURE. [REDACTED]

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1. ARGENTINA: ARGENTINA'S ACTING PRESIDENT LUDER, WASTING NO TIME IN USING HIS NEWLY CONFERRED AUTHORITY, ON SEPTEMBER 15 ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATIONS OF TWO CABINET OFFICERS.4

ONE IS INTERIOR MINISTER AND RETIRED COLONEL VICENTE DAMASCO, WHOSE APPOINTMENT LAST MONTH SPARKED A MAJOR CONTROVERSY THAT BROUGHT THE ARMED FORCES INTO A PROMINENT POLITICAL ROLE.4

ALSO LEAVING IS DEFENSE MINISTER GARRIDO, A VIRTUAL NONENTITY WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS A MINOR PRESIDENTIAL AIDE.4

ARMED FORCES OFFICERS VIEWED DAMASCO'S PRESENCE IN THE FALTERING ADMINISTRATION AS AN AFFRONT TO THEIR PRESTIGE AND HAD STRIPPED HIM OF HIS MILITARY STATUS.4

FOREIGN MINISTER ANGEL ROBLEDO, ONE OF THE FEW CABINET OFFICERS THE MILITARY REGARDS HIGHLY, MOVES TO THE INTERIOR MINISTRY TO REPLACE DAMASCO. NO SUCCESSOR HAS BEEN NAMED FOR ROBLEDO AS FOREIGN MINISTER.4

ECONOMY MINISTER CAFIERO ON SEPTEMBER 15 DEVALUED THE PESO BY JUST OVER 3 PERCENT. HE HAS INDICATED THAT FURTHER SMALL DEVALUATIONS

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CAN BE EXPECTED. 4

BOTH CAFIERO AND LUDER SEEM INTENT ON DEMONSTRATING THAT THE  
GOVERNMENT CAN STILL COME TO GRIPS WITH THE NATION'S SERIOUS PROBLEM  
AND THUS PRECLUDE THE NECESSITY FOR FIRMER MILITARY INTERVENTION.

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2. SOUTH KOREA-JAPAN: THE ONE-DAY SOUTH KOREAN - JAPANESE MINISTERIAL MEETING IN SEOUL MONDAY HAD A MAINLY SYMBOLIC VALUE. IT SIGNALLED A RETURN TO A MORE NORMAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AFTER A PERIOD OF STRAINED TIES THAT STARTED TWO YEARS AGO WHEN SOUTH KOREAN OPPOSITION LEADER KIM TAE-CHUNG WAS KIDNAPED

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IN JAPAN AND RETURNED TO SEOUL.4

A JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE CLOSE OF THE TALKS ENDORSED CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN TOKYO AND SEOUL, BUT IT AVOIDED SPECIFICS. THE JAPANESE AGREED TO CONTINUE ECONOMIC AID TO SEOUL; THEY DID NOT MAKE ANY LONG-TERM COMMITMENTS. SUBSEQUENT WORKING-LEVEL TALKS WILL DECIDE THE LEVEL OF JAPANESE AID. THE SOUTH KOREANS HAD HOPED THAT JAPAN WOULD AGREE TO A SPECIFIC REAFFIRMATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SOUTH KOREA TO JAPANESE SECURITY, BUT TOKYO OFFERED ONLY A GENERAL CALL FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION.4

WHILE SEOUL-TOKYO RELATIONS APPEAR ON A BETTER FOOTING NOW THAN THEY HAVE BEEN FOR SOME TIME, LONG-STANDING FRICTIONS REMAIN. SEOUL IS STILL PARTICULARLY SUSPICIOUS THAT TOKYO IS INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING CONTACTS WITH NORTH KOREA. E-2 IMPDET.4

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